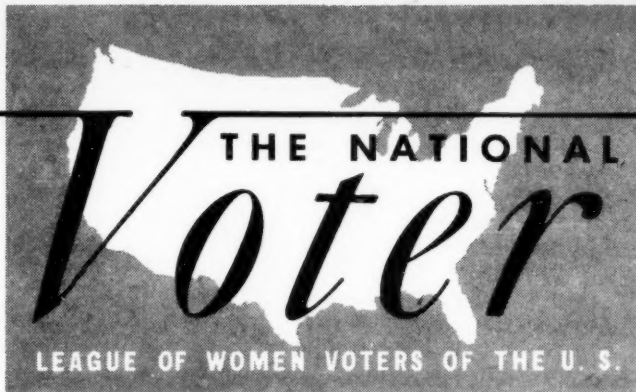


May, 1958



1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

## NATIONAL PROGRAM—1958-1960

*(As adopted by the 23rd national Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey, April 21-25, 1958)*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works through its Voters Service and its Program to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Voters Service is a year-round activity to help the individual citizen to be politically effective. It develops understanding of the essentials of individual liberty and representative government; it provides nonpartisan factual information on candidates and issues; it increases citizen participation in political processes in the interest of responsible and responsive government.

### CURRENT AGENDA

*Governmental issues chosen by the Convention for concerted action.*

**FOREIGN POLICY:** Evaluation of U. S. foreign policy with continued support of the United Nations system, world trade and economic development, and collective security.

**WATER RESOURCES:** Support of those national water policies and practices which promote coordinated administration, equitable financing, and regional or river basin planning.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

*Positions on national issues to which the League has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act.*

1. Modification of federal loyalty-security programs to limit scope, standardize procedures, apply "common sense" judgment, and provide the greatest possible protection for the individual.
2. Self-government for the District of Columbia; extension of national suffrage to citizens of the District.
3. Measures granting the President authority to veto items in appropriation bills.
4. Opposition to constitutional limitation on tax rates.
5. Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations.

### PRINCIPLES

*Governmental measures and policies, supported by the League as a whole, which constitute the authorization for adoption of national, state, territorial, and local Current Agendas.*

1. The principles of representative government and individual liberty established in the Constitution of the United States.
2. A system of government which is responsible to the will of the people and which enables the voter to carry out his obligations as a citizen.
3. A system of government in which responsibility is clearly fixed.
4. A system of government which promotes coordination of the operations of federal, state, and local governments.
5. Governmental organization and administration which contribute to economy and efficiency.
6. A merit system for the selection, retention, and promotion of government personnel.
7. Legal protection of citizens in their right to vote.
8. A system of free public education which provides equal opportunity for all.
9. Protection of minority groups against discrimination.
10. Removal of legal and administrative discriminations against women.
11. A system of federal, state, and local taxation which is flexible and equitable.
12. Fiscal and monetary policies that promote a stable and expanding economy.
13. Responsibility of government to share in the solution of social and economic problems which affect the general welfare.
14. Adequate financing of government functions and services.
15. Conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest.
16. Domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.
17. Cooperation with other nations in solving international problems and promoting world peace.
18. Development of international organization and international law to achieve permanent means of cooperation.

## EXPLANATION OF CURRENT AGENDA—1958-1960

**FOREIGN POLICY:** Evaluation of U.S. foreign policy with continued support of the United Nations system, world trade and economic development, and collective security.

The League will undertake an evaluation of U.S. foreign policies in the light of changing world conditions and of the basic objectives inherent in the League's positions on many international issues.

Our starting point will be a review of some of the new elements in the world scene that deeply affect the U.S. national interest.

The League has long understood that our national interest lies in the growth of a freely cooperating, world-wide community of nations, independent but also interdependent, working together to create the conditions that all nations must have for the full realization of their human and economic potential.

In examining U.S. foreign policies we will identify those which have an important bearing upon our chances of achieving the kind of world we want. We will see how each fits into the total pattern of U.S. foreign policy and how specific policies are inter-related. We will seek to understand not only the long-range objectives of foreign policy but also the factors that may require adjustments and compromises.

Obviously, the League could not possibly evaluate all the specific policies included in the wide range of U.S. foreign policy. We will therefore select certain aspects and examine them more intensively.

Two aspects are particularly appropriate for detailed study because of their intimate relationship to all other areas of foreign policy. One is foreign economic policy, an area in which our new exploration can be based upon our years of work on trade and economic aid. The other is the development of communication and understanding between peoples—a precondition for the success of any foreign policy.

Action will be taken concurrently with our over-all evaluation and intensive work on specific policies. It will be of two kinds. (1) We will attempt to build public understanding of underlying concepts and of specific issues which we identify as important. We will hope to arouse and interest our communities from the beginning. (2) We will act in support of League positions—those which the Convention incorporated in the Current Agenda item; and possibly, later in the biennium, new ones upon which we may reach consensus. These new positions might result from an expansion or modification of old ones or the development of positions in new areas. Pending any such changes, we will continue to act upon our present positions, which are:

Support of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, including adequate financial contributions, increased use, and improved procedures; U.S. support of measures designed to keep the peace through the United Nations and regional defense arrangements; U.S. support of measures to promote international economic development and technical assistance; support of U.S. trade policies that will help solve national and international economic problems.

**WATER RESOURCES:** Support of those national water policies and practices which promote coordinated administration, equitable financing, and regional or river basin planning.

The Convention felt that the League, after two years of study, was ready to spell out broad criteria in our future consideration of this vital resource—water. By adopting this wording, we have now indicated consensus on coordinated administration, equitable financing, and river basin planning. The Convention felt, however, that we do not yet have enough practical experience in applying the criteria to particular proposals to be ready for action at the national level.

The ways in which Leagues will acquire this practical experience may vary. Most Leagues will find the more exciting and effective way to begin work is within their own region or river basin. A few Leagues may prefer to begin by reviewing the federal agencies involved in water.

Out of either approach will come member understanding of the variety of ways to implement national water policies and a clearer definition of how to apply our criteria.

In exploring the possibilities for coordinated administration, Leagues may find there are limits to what can be accomplished because of political realities and structure of agencies. Recognition of conflicting needs and interests will make it clear that compromises will have to be made. In exploring what constitutes equitable financing, the Leagues will expect to arouse interest in their local communities in the importance of participation at state and local levels. One of the best tests for measuring the soundness of a project is the willingness of local people to invest their own money in it.

Those state and local Leagues which participate jointly in a river basin or regional study and reach consensus are authorized to take action at the federal level provided that: 1) the decisions to be made by the federal government apply only to the area involved, and 2) the national Board approves the action as meeting the criteria explicit in wording of item.

If each small step to meet the problems of any local region is taken in a way which meets our criteria, we are helping to shape national water policy in the direction in which we wish to go. Each step must come as a result of public understanding of the needs and choices of how to meet these needs. At any given moment our national water policy is the sum total of these choices.

It may be a long time before citizens reach agreement on any over-all federal machinery. Agreement can be hastened through development of citizen interest and understanding, region by region, to the point that Congress would be persuaded to adopt machinery for the review of projects on some uniform basis. The Leagues have an extraordinary opportunity to participate in step-by-step choices in their own communities and thus help to shape national water policy.

# People, Places, and Things

## THE 1958 CONVENTION

Delegates from Leagues in all 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, the District of Columbia . . . the election of a new national President . . . distinguished speakers Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, George H. Watkins, Dr. Rensis Likert . . . that show-stealer the hat parade, a light touch to a serious subject, foreign trade . . . "Men in our Lives," which honored typical men in various walks of life who have meant much to the League's work . . . a press corps of 23, including reporters from six of the largest dailies of East and Midwest, the three wire services, four leading national magazines of general circulation . . . the many interesting exhibits . . . the first table Convention for the League . . . the note of esteem, affection, and humor struck by Mrs. Walter T. Fisher of Illinois, former national Board member and long-time friend of both Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Phillips, as she smoothed the moment of transition from one President to the other—these were some of the things

that made the 23rd national Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, one to remember.

Total attendance was 1606. The delegate body numbered 1045, of whom 924 were from local Leagues, 106 from state Leagues, 15 from the national Board. Of 1056 local Leagues, 603 were represented.

A budget of \$207,925 was adopted for 1958-59. This was \$1,975 less than the proposed budget, \$1,800 of it being taken out of a proposal which would have meant a larger NATIONAL VOTER. Of the total budget adopted, \$184,825 was pledged by the Leagues and only \$15,000 was budgeted from the Reserve Fund.

Highlights of the 27 hours of proceedings of the 5-day meeting have been condensed into a 60-minute 33⅓ rpm record. If you were there, you'll cherish it as a reminder of an exciting experience; if you weren't there, it will make you think you were. It is called "Report from Convention" and sells for \$5.00. Order now.

## NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Immediately following the Convention, the national Board met in Washington, D. C. In addition to 10 of the 11 officers and directors elected by the Convention, those attending included three members appointed by the new Board as soon as it was elected. They are Mrs. George A. Dreyfous, Mrs. Walter H. C. Laves, Mrs. Luigi Petrullo. All three had served on the 1956-58 national Board.

In accordance with national By-laws, the Board appointed two of its members to the national Nominating Committee: Mrs. Tor Hylbom and Mrs. Arthur E. Whittemore.

Reappointed as League Observer at the United Nations was Mrs. Oscar M. Ruebhausen, who has held the post since 1946. Mrs. G. A. Little of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, was appointed as Alternate Observer.

The Convention had approved the establishment of the League of Women Voters Education Fund, and, according to the terms of the Trust agreement under which the Fund operates, the national Board of the League elected Trustees: Mrs. Werner J. Blanchard, Mrs. Donald F. Bishop, Mrs. Harold D. Dyke, Mrs. John G. Lee, Mrs. A. A. Treuhaft.



At Convention, 1 to 6, (1) Voters Service panel, Mrs. Olga Amann of Germany, Mrs. M. G. Dastgir of Pakistan, Mrs. Carmen Peers de Perkins of Argentina, Miss Anna Lord Strauss; (2) Dr. Likert reports on University of Michigan Survey Research Center's study of the League, as League members wait to hold panel discussion; (3) delegates await their turn to participate in debate; (4) hat parade winners, who placed in order shown—Alabama, California, Connecticut, New Mexico, Ohio; (5) Board members (except Miss Stuhler, out of camera range, and Mrs. Gunderesen, absent): Mesdames Holmer, Briscoe, Trauhaft, Whittemore, Laves, Bishop, Hylbom, Dreyfous, Latimer, Petrullo, Richards, Phillips at lectern; members of former Board, Mesdames Lee, Dyke, Hayes, Blanchard, Marcy, Ruebhausen; (6) Mrs. Lee hands President's gavel to Mrs. Phillips.



# KEEPING UP WITH LEAGUE PROGRAM

**FOREIGN AID:** The House approved authorization for the fiscal 1959 Mutual Security Program on May 14. Minor cuts were made in all categories of aid with the exception of technical cooperation, which was voted an \$8 million increase to strengthen the personnel and administration of the programs.

The League submitted a statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 2, urging the Committee to recommend that the Senate authorize the full amount for economic aid requested by the Administration.

**TRADE:** The House Ways and Means Committee completed work May 15 on a 5-year extension of the Trade Agreements Act. Six amendments were added, including congressional authority to approve by two-thirds vote Tariff Commission escape clause decisions not accepted by the President, and provision of criteria for determining import threats to national security.

Mrs. Phillips wrote to the President April 28, urging him to reject the higher tariffs and quotas on lead

and zinc which were recommended in a split decision of the Tariff Commission on April 24.

**WATER:** Sometime before the 85th Congress adjourns it may attempt to override the President's April 15 veto of the Omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill (S. 497). The Senate Public Works Committee will hold hearings late in May to consider this bill and others having to do with water resources development.

The veto message said that 28 of the 140 projects in the bill would destroy "some of the most important government policies in the field of water resources development."

One of the President's objections was to a provision authorizing that facilities needed at times when rivers are at low flow be included without reimbursement in federal constructions for water storage.

Since the veto, bills have been introduced in both houses to authorize only those projects in S. 497 that had the President's approval.

**LOYALTY-SECURITY:** Telegrams were sent to members of the Senate

Judiciary Committee April 19 from the pre-Convention national Board meeting expressing the League's opposition to one of the Butler (R., Md.) amendments to the Jenner bill, S. 2646—the amendment designed to re-extend the coverage of the federal loyalty-security programs to nonsensitive positions. Two days later, the Committee struck from the bill the section which the League opposed and on April 30 reported out the other Butler amendments. The League has no position on the bill now before the Senate.

Meanwhile, other legislation to re-extend the loyalty-security programs to cover all federal employees (S. 1411 as amended) is still pending before the House.

**CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES,** Convention Action: The Convention voted 1) to move the loyalty-security item from Current Agenda to Continuing Responsibilities, 2) to drop the inflation-deflation CR, 3) to narrow the budgetary procedures CR to support of the presidential item veto on appropriation bills, 4) to delete four of the international CRs and to incorporate these League positions into the CA item on foreign policy. The CRs on D. C. home rule, tax rate limit, and treaty-making power were retained without change.

Convention delegates felt satisfaction with the consensus reached on loyalty-security and the action already under way, and expressed the hope that the momentum not be lost in the transition of this item from CA to CR status. On the other four CRs the League will perform a "watchdog" function awaiting the right time for action.

## From the President's Desk

To put into words the feeling of 1600 women attending Convention is quite an impossibility. Yet I dare say there was not one of us who went away from Atlantic City without a deep desire to communicate somehow to the entire membership of our Leagues back home the hopes, the determinations, the great sense of oneness that we felt there. From the moment of the first gavel it was "our" Convention, "our" choice. It has been thus through the years of Percy Lee's leadership, and it has made us strong and responsible.

We showed our increased sense of responsibility in money matters when for the first time in recent history our pledges for support were sufficient to cut to a minimum the withdrawal from reserves. We affirmed it in our choice of Program, adopting the one we felt most clearly expressed what we can and want to do in the two years ahead.

We wanted a living memorial to express our belief in Percy Lee's belief. Someone suggested a gift to the

League in her name, to be made up of contributions of not more than one dollar from any member who wished to give it, and within a few minutes 1000 and more such dollars had been eagerly contributed. Our grateful recognition to you, Percy Maxim Lee, for your years of inspiring leadership.

Now from here, to where, to what new dimensions? We have a good Program through which we can make our contribution to our country in the world of today: a new look at foreign policy, and a chance to find beginning ways to solve what has for fifty years gone unsolved—the efficient management of one of our natural resources.

Two years from now let us come to another Convention knowing quite well that from our efforts and our devotion we have taken one more step toward achieving the ideals of a democratic society.

*Ruth S. Phillips*

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MRS. ROBERT J. PHILLIPS, President  
DOROTHY FELKER GIRTON, Editor

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